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WALDEN

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SAFFRON WALDEN
IN THE
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF ESSEX

THE ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and the
BOROUGH SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1950

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PREFACE

TO THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE SAFFRON WALDEN

BOROUGH COUNCIL

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1950. I am indebted to my predecessor, Dr. Richardson (retired March 10th, 1951), to the former Borough Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Baxter (retired May 31st, 1951), and the Borough Engineer and Surveyor for the information contained herein, as my own appointment only dates from March 10th, 1951.

IRENE M. CONWAY HASTILOW

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area : 7,502 acres.

Population (Registrar General's estimate of resident population 1950): 7,180.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1950) according to Rate
Books : 2,228.

Rateable value : £43,585.

Sum represented by penny rate: £170.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year (corrections being made for inward and outward transfers):—

		Total	Male	Female	
LIVE BIRTHS	{ Legitimate	86	48	38	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated popu- lation 12.9
	{ Illegitimate	5	2	3	
STILL BIRTHS	{ Legitimate	2	1	1	} Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated popu- lation 12.7
	{ Illegitimate	0	0	0	
DEATHS		91	36	55	

DEATHS from puerperal causes :—

From puerperal sepsis, 0.

From other puerperal causes, 0.

Total, 0.

DEATHS of infants under one year of age	<div> <div>Legitimate 3</div> <div>Illegitimate 0</div> </div>	Total 3
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DEATHS of infants under 4 weeks of age	<table> <tr> <td>Legitimate</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Illegitimate</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </table>	Legitimate	2	Illegitimate	0	Total 2
Legitimate	2					
Illegitimate	0					

All infants per 1,000 live births, 33.0.

DEATHS from Measles (all ages), 0.
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages), 0.
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years), 0.

There was no excessive mortality from any particular disease during the year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Service.—Bacteriological Service: The district is served by the Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Ambulance Facilities.—A day and night ambulance service is provided by the Local Health Authority. The ambulance station is at Saffron Walden and is on the telephone, but as the driver and attendant may be away from the station answering a call, persons requiring an ambulance are advised to dial "999" or "0" or "01" (according to arrangements in the area), and ask for an ambulance. Where there is no dialling system it is sufficient to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance.

Non-emergency calls are only accepted from a hospital, a doctor or nurse, or other competent person such as a duly authorised officer in the Mental Health Service.

Water.—The water has continued to be of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. All dwelling houses in the town are supplied from the public water mains. The number depending on stand pipes is 350.

A piped supply has been laid on during the year to Audley End Village by agreement with the Saffron Walden Rural District Council, from their mains via Audley House. The new main serves the Village and the new Home for Retired Clergy—St. Mark's College.

The supply has been consistently satisfactory in both quality and quantity, and has never shown any evidence of contamination. The following is a copy of the most recent chemical analysis of a sample of the water going into supply:—

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

APPEARANCE : Bright with very few mineral particles.

				TURBIDITY (Silica Scale): Less than 5.			
Colour (Hazen)	...	Nil	Odour	...	...	Nil	
Reaction pH.	...	7.1	Free Carbon Dioxide			33	
Electric Conductivity at			Total Solids, dried at				
20° C.	...	590	180° C.	...	...	395	
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	18	Alkalinity as Calcium				
Hardness : Total	...	190	Carbonate	...	...	285	
{ Carbonate (Temporary)	190		Nitrogen in Nitrites				
			Less than	...	...	0.01	
{ Non-carbonate (Permanent)	...	0	Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs.				
			at 27° C.	...	...	0.00	
Nitrogen in Nitrates		5.0					
Free Ammonia	...	0.000					
Albuminoid Ammonia		0.000					
Metals : Iron less than		0.03					
other metals	...	...	Absent				

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

	1 day at 37° C.	2 days at 37° C.	3 days at 20° C.
Number of Colonies developing on Agar	0 per ml.	2 per ml.	— per ml.
	Present in	Absent from	Probable number
Presumptive Coli- aerogenes Reaction	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli. (Type 1)	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	— ml.	— ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction, and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water has moderate hardness, contains no excess of saline or mineral constituents in solution, and its organic quality and bacterial purity are very satisfactory.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal.—The new Soil Sewer from the new school, Audley End Road, to Abbey Lane, was completed.

The general maintenance and repairs carried out at the Sewage Works and the installation of the chlorinator at the inlet have produced results far better than originally expected. Whilst the final effluent does not always comply in all respects with the standards required by the County Council, there have been occasions when it has reached the required standard.

Baths.—The Filtration and Chlorination Plants are giving very satisfactory results. Analysis of a sample of the bath water taken after normal use showed that the water was of satisfactory organic quality and of a high standard of bacterial purity.

The installation of the automatic soda-doser has much improved the general condition of the water by maintaining a p.H. value of approximately 7.6.

Housing.—General progress on new housing schemes and maintenance of existing houses progressed satisfactorily.

In selecting tenants for the new houses the 'point' system was used.

Hospitals.—For all hospital and tuberculosis services the two Saffron Walden Districts are included in the East Anglian Regional Hospital Area, and the three hospitals situated at Saffron Walden are administered by the Cambridge and Newmarket Hospital Management Committee.

The rest of the Administrative County of Essex is in the North East Metropolitan Hospital Area.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	22
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	5
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	19

TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications.—Seven cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified.

Deaths.—One death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified in 1950.

CIRCULARS, ETC., RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1950

Circular	Number	Title
Ministry of Health Circular	7/50	Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations, 1950
Ministry of Health Statutory Instruments 1950	6	Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations, 1950
Ministry of Health Memorandum	Part 10	Health Control at Airports
National Health Service Act, 1946	Section 28	Proposed arrangements for prevention of illness, care and after care, First Supplementary Proposal (Vaccination against Tuberculosis).
Ministry of Health Circular	11/50	Welfare of Old People.
Ministry of Food Circular	MF.2/50	Food and Drugs (Whalemeat) (Amendment) Regulations, 1950.
Ministry of Food Memorandum	No. 2	Whalemeat. Memorandum on a System on Inspection and Hygiene of Whalemeat Production.
Ministry of Food Circular	MF.4/50	Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) (Amendment) Regulations, 1950.
		Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) (Amendment) Regulations, 1950.
Statutory Instruments 1950, Food and Drugs, England	409	The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) (Amendment) Regulations, 1950.
Statutory Instruments 1950, Food and Drugs, England	410	The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) (Amendment) Regulations, 1950.

Circular	Number	Title
The Central Council for Health Education Circular	Ex.101	Exhibition Set.
The Central Council for Health Education Circular	Ex.201	Exhibition Furniture.
Ministry of Food Circular	MF.9/50	The Milk and Dairies Regula- tions, 1949.
Ministry of Health Circular	93005/3/241B 93005/11/5	Clean Food Campaign— (1) Film "Fly about the House" (2) Leaflet "Insect Pests in Catering Establishments." (Reprint).
Ministry of Labour and National Service S.H.W.803106/25		The Local Authorities (Trans- fer of Enforcement) (Amend- ment) Order, 1950.
Ministry of Food Circular	MC.11/50	The Milk and Dairies Regula- tions, 1949.
The Central Council for Health Education Circular Letter, 16th June, 1950		Food and Drink Infections. Further correspondence and a draft programme for a Food and Drink Infections Conference at Olympia on 31st August, 1950.
Ministry of Food Circular	MF.14/50	The Milk (Special Designa- tions) Act, 1949. The Milk (Special Designa- tions) Regulations, 1949. The Milk and Dairies Regu- lations, 1949.
Ministry of Food Circular	MF.17/50	The Milk and Dairies Regu- lations, 1949. Approved Oxi- dising and Preservative Agents.
Ministry of Health Circular	98/50	Civil Defence Act, 1948. The Civil Defence(Burial) Regu- lations, 1949. (Statutory) Instrument, 1949 No. 2145.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The Borough Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Baxter, presents the following Report on the Inspection of the area during the year 1950.

Total number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	1953
Nuisances or Defects found	...	...	...	...	527
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	301
Informal (written) Notices	...	...	...	...	56
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	0
Nuisances and Defects remedied	...	...	...	...	476
Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	63
Houses Re-inspected	...	...	...	...	11
Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	40
Schools disinfected	...	...	...	...	1
Inspection of 2 Government Controlled Slaughterhouses...	...	...	...	...	668
Inspection of Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	19
Inspection of Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	7
Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	12
Samples of Water	...	...	...	...	3
Samples of Trade Waste	...	...	...	...	0
Samples of Sewage Effluent	...	...	...	...	4

UN SOUND FOOD—

Food in Tins, Jars, Bottles or Packets	1219 Containers
Luncheon Meat	9 lbs.
Sausages	40 lbs.
Veal	1½ lbs.
Frozen Beef	513 lbs.
Suet	9 lbs.
Meat Pies	5 lbs.
Cheese	19 lbs.
Cream Cake	50 lbs.
Prunes	30 lbs.
Eggs	40 lbs.

The greater part of the foodstuffs condemned was handed over for Animal Food and a small quantity destroyed.

FOOD HANDED OVER FOR MANURE PURPOSES

Fish	41½ stone
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FOOD RETURNED TO VENDORS

Frozen Beef	513 lbs.
Sardines	39 tins
Pork	14 lbs.
Bacon	49 lbs.

HANDED OVER TO LOCAL FOOD EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Stale Sweets	115½ lbs.
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HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Number of houses built by Council	20
(b) Number of Almshouses built by PRIME TRUST	...	...	...	7
(d) Number of houses built by Private Persons	...	...	...	6

Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year :—

Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	63
Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	91
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	8
Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	5

Remedy of Defects following Informal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses demolished in consequence of action by the Local Authority	...	...	8
Number of defective dwellinghouses made fit in consequence of action by the Local Authority	...	...	5

Housing Act, 1936. Part 4. Overcrowding :—

1. Number of dwellings over-crowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	6
Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	36
2. Number of new cases of over-crowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	6
3. Number of cases of over-crowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	12
Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	51

Caravan Sites :—

Five Caravan Sites have been licensed.

Wasps Nests.—Sixteen wasps nests have been destroyed.

Rat Destruction.—The Operator paid 203 visits to Council property, 5,703 visits to private property, and 91 visits to business premises. Dead rats collected, 1,139. Dead mice collected 237. The Slade and public sewers had several treatments, and also the Town refuse dump.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—Four houses were found to be infested with bed bugs.

Meat.—There are two Government Controlled Slaughterhouses in the district. The number of inspections made by the Inspector during the year, and including visits at the time of slaughter, was 668.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number inspected	1212	430	1986	658
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis—</i>				
Whole carcases condemned	16	3	25	25
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	466	7	35	149
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	38.44	2.32	3.03	22.64
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>				
Whole carcases condemned	8	0	0	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	77	1	0	5
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	7.09	0.23	0	1.28
<i>Condemned—</i>				
Meat ... ..	...	...	...	17332½ lbs.
Offals ... ..	...	...	...	9675½ lbs.
Imported Beef ... ..	...	...	...	252 lbs.
Imported Mutton ... ..	...	...	...	34 lbs.

ADULTERATION, ETC.

Ice Cream.—21 persons are registered under the Essex County Council Act, 1933, for the sale of ice cream.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
54 Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	36	16	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	15	—	—
Workplaces	12	—	—
Total	63	16	Nil

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects		
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—			
Want of cleanliness	7	7	—
Want of ventilation	3	3	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	3	3	—
Other nuisances	9	9	—
Sanitary Accommodations			
Insufficient	3	3	—
Unsuitable or defective	7	7	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts—			
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921)			
Total	32	32	—